To Our Alumni and Friends,

"The Bulldog Byte" served us well. Since 2002 it shared Fresno State stories and Class Notes from every corner of campus, the state, our nation and beyond. But a new day is here, one filled with great potential to share new stories — yours and ours. (With pretty pictures too!)

So to the Bulldog Byte: We bid you adieu.

We look forward to a new era of the Fresno State Alumni Association, with more engaging stories of our Alumni and Friends at the heart of every issue. To all of our Bulldogs we present… The Alumni News.

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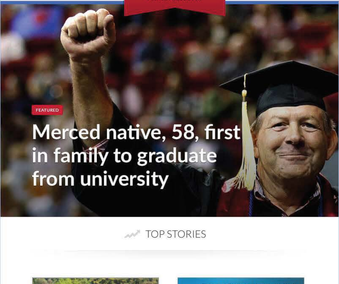
FRESNO STATE Alumni Association

ALUMNI NEWS JUN. 2015



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Merced native, 58, first in family to graduate from university

TOP STORIES

Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter raises $15,000 at annual golf tournament

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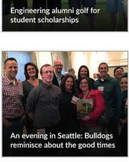

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An evening in Seattle: Bulldogs reminisce about the good times

Other top news…

Commencement 2015 wrap-up; video posting, final numbers NEW!

CSU OK's Fresno State move to modify enrollment plan

Changing the educational make-up of the region one graduate at a time

Outstanding CSU grads impact campus, community and world

Fresno State's 104th Commencement is part of CSU Class of 3 Million

Castro honored Justice Armando Rodriguez with Medal of Distinction

Janice Sanders: Former Navy nurse earns doctorate, now educating next generation

CSU by the numbers

Eight CSUs among "greenest colleges"

College degrees: California's other drought NEW!

CLASS NOTES

FEATURED

Derek Franks (2007)

is the new general manager of the Fresno Grizzlies A Central Valley native and lifelong baseball fan, Franks… READ MORE

David Campos (2010)

has been awarded the 2014 Andres Montoya Poetry Prize, a biennial award presented by the Institute for Latino Studies at University of Notre Dame honoring one promising Latino-American poet by publishing their first collection.

Gina Meyers (1994)

wrote *Love at First Bite: The Unofficial Twilight Cookbook*, which has been sold worldwide and brings together Twilight lovers of all ages and cooking skills.

Prisca Shiralian (2014)

is the new owner of D&L Floral, previously named D&L Roses. At age 25, she bought the business before she had even graduated from her master of business administration program at Fresno State.

Jody Hironaka-Juteau (1987) is the new dean of the College of Health and Human Services. She is also an American Council of Education Fellow.

Travis Stephenson (2011) and Richard Perez were married on May 2, 2015 at the Shin Zen Japanese Gardens in Fresno, Calif. A reception followed at the Sky Room of the Radisson Hotel in downtown Fresno.

Julie Hamilton (2013) has joined Family HealthCare Network's Goshen Health Center as a registered dietitian. She received her Certificate of Advanced Study in Dietetics from Fresno State, where she also completed a B.S. in food and nutrition sciences. She is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as well as the Central Valley Dietetics Association.

David Kwabwasser (2000) is a geomatics engineer for the High Speed Rail project.

Bill Musick (Alumnus), who was a revered former wrestling and football coach at Fresno City College, passed away in April 2015 at 77 years old.

Benjamin Holton (2008) and Tracy Funk (2000, '02) got engaged while on vacation in Ireland on April 3.

Bruce Farris (1950), a sports reporter who is inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame, passed away. He was 88.

Lance Gault (1999, '99) has joined the team of physicians at Kaiser Permanente in Fresno. He holds two degrees from Fresno State — a B.S. in kinesiology with an emphasis in sports medicine, and a B.A. in liberal studies with an emphasis in teaching.

Sandra Bolt (1990) co-authored a book titled "Professionalism: Skills for Workplace Success." The fourth edition was released earlier this year.

Christopher Jay Long (1987) is the executive director of marketing at Children's Hospital.

Jodee Lynn Marcellin (1992) is the grants and program coordinator at Sanger Unified School District.

Joshua McDonald (2008) earned a full ride scholarship to Boston University to earn his Ph.D in Philosophy.

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUN 12

Chicano Alumni Club Annual Legacy Builders Awards Banquet

Join us as we Honor Julia Balderas (posthumously), Angie Cisneros, Celia Maldonado, and Josie Mena, our 2015 "Legacy Builder" Award Recipients and meet our 2015 Scholarship Recipients.

LOCATION

University Square Hotel
4961 N. Cedar Ave., Fresno, CA 93726

JUN 13

Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter Barbecue

The third annual Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter Barbeque will be held at the Sigma Chi Fraternity Chapter House on Saturday, June 13 at 12 p.m. Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter members and their guests are invited at no charge.

LOCATION

Sigma Chi Alumni Fraternity House
1456 E. Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710

JUL 15

Ag One and Fresno State Alumni Association North Bay Alumni & Friends Dinner

Join us for wine tasting and dinner featuring Fresno State farm products and a silent auction. Farm tour starts at 4p.m., 5p.m. social and dinner at 6:30p.m. Tickets are $45 per person through July 8, $60 thereafter.

LOCATION

Santa Rosa Junior College Shone Farm
7450 Steve Olson Lane, Forestville, CA 95436

SEE MORE EVENTS

Did you know that @LylesCenter has a 3D printer for students to use?! Check out more info at http://bit.ly/1JlObNf

@FresnoStateAlum 12:50 PM - 8 Jun 2015

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Stories celebrating Bulldog alumni.
Jun 5, 2015 · 3 min read

Alumnus proves it's never too late to graduate

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

Photo by Cary Edmondson

For much of Phillip Helton's life, attending Fresno State was an unrealized dream. Growing up in Merced, Helton's family worked hard as general building contractors, though none of them pursued higher education.
Helton himself followed suit, forgoing college for a 27-year career as a maintenance technician.

> *"I always desired an education throughout my life," Helton said. "Life got in the way, as it does—I got married, had children, and next thing you know, you're 50."*

On May 15, 2015, Helton's life-long dream finally came true: the 58-year-old became the first in his family to graduate from college.

Helton graduated with a bachelor's degree in agriculture education from Fresno State. His emphasis was in agriculture mechanics, and his ultimate dream is to teach the subject at the high school level.

"As long as the Lord keeps blessing me health-wise, I want to teach until about 75," Helton said. "That would be the cream of the crop. I don't want to retire at no 60, 65 years old. That's just not who I am."

After an injury forced him to retire from his career as a maintenance technician, Helton started college full time in the spring of 2007 at Merced College. He graduated from the community college in spring 2011, and transferred to Fresno State that fall.

"When I was unemployed, actually on disability, I started back at school at 50," Helton said. "And when I got here [at Fresno State], I knew this is exactly what I wanted to do. I met a bunch of super professors and these guys were top notch. They helped me, and I knew that this is what I want to do—teach ag."

> *"All my life, I've heard so much about Fresno State," he said. "Really there was no other choice—I've always wanted to go here because, hey, this is the best there is."*

Helton graduated with honors. He said his hope is to be a positive influence on his family, whom he said is very proud of his accomplishments.

"I have two children, a son and a daughter, and both of them are very, very proud," he said. "I've got eight grandkids, and I really hope me leading the way here, they'll follow my path."

For others interested in pursuing higher education later in life, Helton said they should know "it's never too late."

"Don't ever stop and never give up. I don't care if you fail in classes at the beginning," he said. "I desired an education my whole life, and once I got down my path, you know, I've done really well."

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Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter raises $15,000 at annual golf tournament

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

Photo contributed by Matthew Haas

More than $15,000 was raised at the annual Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter Golf Tournament recently in support of the business school and student scholarships. More than 110 attendees gathered at the San Joaquin Country Club on April 27 for the tournament to support the Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter, network with fellow golfers and re-connect with the university.

"The whole goal of the golf tournament is to raise money for our endowment," said Matthew Haas, Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter president. "The interest off the endowment is what goes to scholarships."

Haas said it's safe to say the endowment is currently greater than $150,000. Each year, scholarships ranging from $500 to $2,500 each are awarded to about five business students. The students are chosen based on academic achievement and financial need.

Proceeds from the tournament also support functions of the Craig School of Business.

"The tournament is not only a great connection back to Fresno State, it's also a lot of fun," Haas said. "Not all who attended were alum, but they have a really great connection to the university and know the tournament is Fresno State-affiliated. And they're willing to come out for that."

Attendees included business owners, bankers and Fresno State Alumni Association donors. The golf tournament was open to the public. Each golfer paid $200, which included access to the beer and wine garden and lunch catered by Deli Delicious.

As an added bonus, the Fresno State men's and women's golf teams came out to the event to play a couple of holes with the golfers. Jim Bartko, Fresno State's new athletic director, also came out for the day.

"It's always favorable to have the interactions with student athletes and players out there," Haas said. "They're really impressive, just great."

Haas said he believes the golf tournament was a great success.

> *"It was probably the best tournament we've had in a really, really long time," he said. "Everything was positive."*

To join the Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter, please contact Mike Fillebrown at mfillebrown@yahoo.com.

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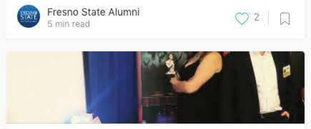

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Marvin and Jane Baxter Scholarship supports future teachers

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

Photo contributed by Marvin Baxter

Students majoring in education and/or liberal studies will have the opportunity to apply for the Marvin and Jane Baxter Scholarship, a gift rewarding juniors, seniors or post-baccalaureate students pursuing a teaching credential.

The Marvin and Jane Baxter Scholarship is one of seven newly-endowed scholarship agreements approved by the Fresno State Alumni Association after receiving $99,000 in donations earlier this spring. A $10,000 gift was used to establish the Marvin and Jane Baxter Scholarship endowment.

"The $10,000 for the scholarship came from a dinner held in our honor," Fresno State alumnus Justice Marvin Baxter said. "The dinner was in tribute to Jane's career as an elementary school teacher and [mine] as an associate justice for 24 years on the California Supreme Court."

Jane graduated from Fresno State in 1962 with a degree in education and became a credentialed teacher. She taught elementary school in Burlingame while Marvin attended Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, and later taught in Fresno.

Jane and Marvin said they both feel that teachers provide a very "important public service" and that students should be encouraged and assisted to pursue such a worthwhile career.

Both Jane and Marvin were active in student government and extracurricular activities at Fresno State. Jane is a former president of Delta Gamma Sorority and Marvin served as student body and alumni president. Marvin also was a reporter for "The Daily Collegian" and was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity and Blue Key Society.

As a result, the scholarship specifically aims to reward education majors who have demonstrated past leadership experience at Fresno State.

> *"We would like to extend our congratulations to the [future] recipient for earning the scholarship and encourage the recipient to fulfill his or her dream of becoming a teacher," the couple said.*

The Fresno State Alumni Association is providing more than $145,000 in scholarships this year. To learn more about how to support student success by giving, contact Peter Robertson at probertson@csufresno.edu.

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Engineering alumni golf for student scholarships

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

Photo contributed by Francisco Magos

The Lyles College of Engineering Alumni Chapter raised $8,700 in support of student scholarships at the 11th Annual Alumni Chapter Golf Tournament in April. Ninety-one golfers, comprised of both Fresno State alumni and non-alumni, attended the alumni chapter golf tournament at Riverside Golf Course in Fresno.

"We had a great time," said Francisco Magos, Lyles College of Engineering Alumni Chapter president. "It was a great success and we received a good amount of compliments along the way."

The goal of the annual event is to fundraise to provide scholarships for students in the Lyles College of Engineering. The proceeds increase the chapter's endowed scholarship, increasing the scholarship amount available to students each year.

In the 2014–15 academic year, the chapter gave around $4,000 in scholarships, benefiting six students.

> *"Another reason [for the tournament] is simply for the networking and business opportunities," Magos said. "A lot of times, we get busy within our own lives so it is nice to take an afternoon off and reconnect with old college buddies or industry colleagues."*

Last year, the event resulted in nearly $10,000 for student scholarships and had a record-turnout of 119 participants. Despite a lower turnout this year, Magos said he believes giving was higher on a per-person basis, and that the event was an overall success.

"Our profit is well above what was done several years ago, where it was tough to get 50 golfers to the event. We even had to skip a year due to low turnout," he said. "As with every event we hold, we do plan on getting a 'lessons learned' outline, so that we can improve next year."

For more information about the Lyles College of Engineering Alumni Chapter and its events, join the chapter's group page on Facebook and LinkedIn.

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An evening in Seattle: Bulldogs reminisce about the good times

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

Photo contributed by Katie Adamo

Twelve Fresno State alumni gathered at the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle for the final California State University alumni reception of the academic year. The networking event was open to all CSU alumni throughout the area.

> *"It was a really good atmosphere," said Katie Adamo, events coordinator for the Fresno State Alumni Association. "Professionals in that area were able to reconnect with their campuses and other professionals from other campuses. They got to connect with like-minded people."*

Around 115 alumni from the 23 CSU campuses attended the event.
The CSU alumni receptions and mega mixers bring together alumni from multiple CSU campuses for an evening of networking and socializing. They are often held in areas with high concentrations of CSU alumni, like Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, Denver or San Francisco.

This was the third reception held in 2015, with mixers in New York and the Bay Area held earlier in the year. Adamo said she expects mixers in Washington, D.C., New York and Los Angeles in the future.

"What is unique about these events, according to the feedback I've heard, is it's great that we, Fresno State, come to the alumni," Adamo said. "The events are an opportunity to reconnect with the university as well as network. They're also a fun celebration."

Adam Brown, a Seattle native, graduated from Fresno State in 2001. He attended the Seattle reception to meet alumni who also live in the area.

> *"I enjoyed hearing about how or why fellow Fresno State alum relocated to Seattle," Brown said. "I also enjoyed talking with them about our respective time at Fresno State. It was a bit of a trip down memory lane talking about a favorite class or professor, Bulldog football and our favorite dining and drinking spots while we were students at Fresno State."*

With almost 3,000 Fresno State alumni living in Washington, more than 50 percent reside in the four counties around Seattle—King, Pierce, Kitsap and Snohomish. Attendees of the Seattle CSU Alumni Reception expressed an interest in creating an official Fresno State Alumni Association Seattle Alumni Network to keep Fresno State graduates in the greater Seattle area connected.

The Fresno State Alumni Association already has networks in San Diego, Las Vegas and Washington, D.C.

"Those in the network could stay connected with each other and attend events—anywhere from athletic watch parties to networking events to social events," Adamo said.

For any Fresno State alumni interested in helping start an FSAA Seattle Alumni Network, contact Matthew Schulz at 559.278.0464 or at mschulz@csufresno.edu. For more information about the CSU alumni receptions, visit www.calstate.edu/alumni.

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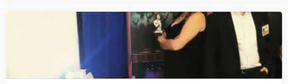

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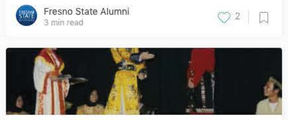

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COMMENCEMENT 2015 WRAP-UP: VIDEO POSTING, FINAL NUMBERS

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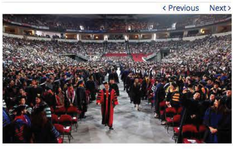

COMMENCEMENT 2015 WRAP-UP: VIDEO POSTING, FINAL NUMBERS

A two-and-half hour video recording of the 104th University Commencement is now posted on the Fresno State YouTube page.

A photo gallery is also available at the commencement website.

The Latino Commencement Celebration DVD may be ordered through the College of Social Science for $30. Most were sold in advance so remaining DVDs will be available until supplies last. For more information, call 559.278.3013 or visit its website.

The Kremen School of Education and Human Development Convocation DVD can be purchased for $8 at Kremen Building, room 100, or via email at kremenschool@csufresno.edu.

Final Commencement Numbers:

For the 2014-15 academic year, 4,105 students completed their baccalaureate studies, 939 students earned master's degrees and education specialist degrees and 85 earned doctorate degrees, including 25 in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, 28 in the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership and 32 in the Joint Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy with the University of California, San Francisco. Teacher credentials were awarded to 401 graduates (360 basic and 41 advanced) by the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

Class of 2015 total: 5,129 students completed requirements for a degree this year.

For the University Commencement Ceremony at the Save Mart Center Saturday morning, 1,200 graduates walked before a crowd of 9,563.

The largest crowd gathered for the Latino Commencement Celebration at Save Mart Center Saturday night with 12,780 in attendance to witness 852 participating graduates.

Attendance figures (turnstile counts) for events held in the Save Mart Center:

Craig School of Business: 4,095

College of Social Sciences: 3,160

Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology: 4,199

College of Science and Math: 3,206

Kremen School of Education: 6,136

African American Recognition: 1,720

Latino Celebration: 11,780

Main Commencement: 9,564

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- Graduate and Undergraduate Medalists
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- Original release

By Tom Uribes | May 22nd, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: Commencement | 0 Comments

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CSU OK'S FRESNO STATE MOVE TO MODIFY ENROLLMENT PLAN

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CSU OK'S FRESNO STATE MOVE TO MODIFY ENROLLMENT PLAN

California State University Chancellor Timothy White has approved Fresno State's proposal to modify the current campus enrollment plan starting in the 2016-17 academic year, in order to deal with growing student demand that cannot be fully accommodated.

The campus will develop an "impaction" plan for all first-time freshmen and new upper division transfers. Impaction will include a variety of tools to manage enrollment.

Impaction occurs when a campus receives more qualified applicants than its state funding model will support. Enrollment at Fresno State has grown significantly in the past five years. Since the fall 2010 term, applications for admission have been at a historic high and continue to increase at a 6 percent rate. At the same time, state budget restrictions across California and throughout the CSU continue to limit the University's ability to serve all qualified applicants.

Three public hearings were held in March to receive comments and evidence on the proposed change before Fresno State submitted its request to the CSU.

A plan adjusting admission requirements will be developed and will be shared with faculty and administrative bodies. Admission changes will be implemented starting in fall 2016, with impacts as minimally as possible to meet state- and CSU-mandated enrollment targets.

> *"We are committed to student success, and for some student access to Fresno State through a community college route may be a better path," said Frank Lamas, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. "We know that students who come to us from community colleges have a higher graduation rate than those who arrive as freshmen."*

Lamas said Fresno State's Outreach Services office and academic advisers will work closely with community colleges to assist these students.

By Shirley Armbruster | May 20th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: Admissions and Enrollment, CSU, enrollment | 1 Comment

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Changing the educational make-up of the region one graduate at a time

by Eddie Hughes

View Photo Gallery

Rosi Jenkins entered the Fresno State campus from Los Angeles in 1986 knowing she had an opportunity to change her life. She was about midway between the was 2 years old. Two of her siblings had died in a car accident and she was the only one not biological father at 11 years old, but the emotional support was overwhelming.

Jenkins spoke more of his childhood in foster care and at age 17 he thought of everything he was doing.

"It took back on it today and I had one of the toughest childhoods you could imagine," Jenkins says. "I broke down and asked God to save me and he heard me. I knew I was doing wrong."

Shortly after, Jenkins threw a ball through a neighborhood man's window. The man, Harry Jenkins, was a Vietnam vet who had lost his arm from Jenkins, adopted the young Bulldog's least and learned repositority.

Jenkins was a troublemaker and changed his football ability to go from Manual Arts High School to East Los Angeles City College." Jenkins says.

Rosie Woodhagen, an assistant coach at Fresno State at the time, started recruiting Jenkins.

"I watched him, and I liked him," says Woodhagen, who coached Jenkins at Bulldogs from 1983-87. and is currently the assistant vice president for Student Affairs at Fresno State. "I knew he was a good football player, but I knew he was a good person. I knew he was going to get this guy to Fresno State. And he was the rest of his life."

Jenkins earned a scholarship to Fresno State and became the only one of his Bulldogs siblings and five adopted siblings to earn a college degree.

Like Jenkins, 98 percent of Fresno State graduates are the first in their families to earn a graduation – a fact that is their immediate families to earn a four-year college degree, according to the Fresno University 23,000 Walk.

Fresno State President Joseph J. Castro, himself a first-generation college graduate, and President Barack Obama at the White House Conference on Higher Education this December. The summit focused on supplying students with the skills, knowledge, and competencies, especially in mathematics, science, income and entrepreneurial students.

Jenkins and his wife Jenny have created scholarships for first-generation students through various organizations, including the Fresno Community Bookcase, offered by Jenkins' church, the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, to prepare high-school students to apply for college, scholarships and financial aid.

A record 9 Ph.D. degrees were awarded and was disbursed to Fresno State students in the 2013 academic year.

Against all odds

Jenkins' rule ended up a successful one. But more adversity followed when he arrived in Fresno. He was a 6-foot-2, 250-pound man who had three sisters to his death after a drug dealer and another was shot to death. And one of his sisters is now in prison.

On the football field, Jenkins, a 5-foot-10, 175-pound defensive tackle, was a disappointment. "My junior year, Fresno State was 0-10 at the time, the late Jim Sweeney called Jenkins into a year and redshirted.

"Coach Sweeney felt like I didn't deserve the things I received in life. I was a 'Hollywood rookie,'" Jenkins says. "I didn't like the ball get hit, I didn't like the ball get hit, I didn't like the ball get hit. I didn't like the ball get hit."

Sweeney told Jenkins he wasn't good enough to be a starting linebacker. Jenkins thought he would play on special teams instead.

Jenkins came out of the meeting with tears in his eyes. But Woodhagen, himself a former Bulldogs wide receiver, knew there was more to Jenkins.

"Rosi was devastated," Woodhagen says. "I told him to go home and pack his bags because he can be, and if he does everything he's asked to do, he won't miss a practice."

Jenkins was told he needed to get better. "Coach Sweeney told me to earn the scholarship the University gave me and not settle for being a second-stringer," he recalls.

Jenkins sought the help of then-Fresno State Coach Jim Sweeney, who had left the school to become a coach in the Canadian Football League and dedicated his summer to the workouts.

In 1987, Jenkins was a starter in the conference and fourth in the nation with 70 catches and 10 touchdowns.

> *"This was the biggest accomplishment I had in terms of growing as a person," Jenkins says. "Enduring and proving myself was life-changing. It's the reason I am successful in life today."*

Jenkins says that it was typical of the life he had lived, that he was overcoming physical and psychological hindrances that he made you tough and have thick skin. To the Bulldogs, Jenkins was a tough and thick-skinned man who had overcome adversity.

And he overcame adversity his first season in the Cardinals, he was a starter in the Bulldogs degree in social work and is now in his 23rd year working in a mental rehabilitation facility in the juvenile justice system. He worked at the Fresno Community Bookcase for three years before accepting a position in Southern California. He now works at the Fresno Community Bookcase.

"For too gear at Fresno State is student-athlete, and I was a student-athlete. I was providing opportunities for my family and first-generation students," Castro says. "So, turn many of those students into a group of good jobs and transform the trajectory of their families."

And most of them directly impact the local community. Of the 23,000 Fresno State graduates stay and work in the Central Valley.

One changed life leads to another

Cerise Phelps says the first two years from an hour and a half away, in Los Angeles, was victim of turmoil from the drug dealer that she was and, at age 15, was sentenced to six months in Fresno Juvenile Hall.

That's where Phelps, originally from Claflin, met a young Jenkins who was in the same situation.

"He was quiet and had horribly low self-esteem," Phelps says. "I had been tortured and had been in a lot of fights and was a tomboy and had expected to be a gang member of those facts, but Rosi was different. He wanted to be a good man. He was a good person. I didn't know that there was people not like that. He asked me questions no one else had ever asked, it is really helped me to see that there's a good man."

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Phelps, who now lives on the Central Coast of California, earned a degree from Fresno State in Sociology and Chicano Studies in the 1990s. She helping kids in the juvenile hall. Jenkins had a hand in her life, and more importantly, he had potential, and I believed him."

It worked. Phelps was a thing to Jenkins while she was in juvenile hall and ended up studying mathematics at Fresno State, where she graduated summa cum laude in 2002. She earned a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of UCLA, and founded Technology Girl, Inc., a business that creates a platform and curriculum for underserved students of all forms of human diversity.

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"This article, his positivity, he wasn't even negative or down on it," Phelps says. "A lot of people took a strict attitude with us, but Rosi was not like that. He was very, very, very,

FRESNO STATES 104TH COMMENCEMENT IS PART OF CSU CLASS OF 3 MILLION

Previous Next

FRESNO STATES 104TH COMMENCEMENT IS PART OF CSU CLASS OF 3 MILLION

As the California State University system celebrates its Class of 3 Million Campaign this Commencement season, Fresno State plays its part with two days of events that begin at 8 a.m. Friday, May 15. The big show – the 104th Fresno State Commencement Ceremony – takes center stage at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16 at the Save Mart Center. Doors open at 8 a.m.

class-of-3-million

About 5,136 Fresno State students are eligible for degree conferral by President Joseph I. Castro, who will be joined by Fresnoʼ State interim executive vice chancellor and general counsel for the CSU Board of Trustees.

Moses Menchaca, president of the Associated Students, Incorporated will open the free, public ceremony, to complete his second term.

The Class of 2015 Commencement season kicked off May 6 with the Teacher Ceremony. Fresno State Commencement continued last week with recognition celebrations for Educational Opportunity Program and Asian American and Pacific Islander students.

The events resume Friday with 23 college and school convocations in addition to departmental and program celebrations throughout the day at multiple locations. On Saturday after the Commencement, another five events will be held before concluding Sunday morning with the Nursing Graduate Pinning Ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Satellite Student Union.

Of the 32 events, 29 are on campus, mostly in the Save Mart Center, the adjacent Student Recreation Center or the Satellite Student Union. The three events off campus will be at Woodward Park Rotary Amphitheater and Civols Veterans Memorial District.

See the full schedule of Fresno State Commencement events.

Some of the ceremonies require tickets based on the size of the graduating class and anticipated audience. Those events are noted on the schedule. Live streaming will not be available but video will be posted to Fresno State YouTube page the week after Commencement.

Students and families are encouraged to tag their photos posted to social media by using the hashtag #FresnoStateGrad15 and #CSU3MIL for the CSU Class of 3 Million.

Students will also be presented a wristband commemorating the Class of 3 Million that was introduced at all 23 campuses during the 2014-15 academic year.

With the graduation of the Class of 2015, CSU will surpass the milestone of having 3 million alumni who are invited to join an online yearbook.

Fresno State's current Class of 2015 includes 4,105 students who completed requirements for their baccalaureate degree, 939 students who have earned master's and education specialist degrees and 92 students who earned doctorate degrees.

The university's official spring semester enrollment was 22,069 and fall was 23,667, reported Bernie Venovski, associate vice president of Enrollment Services.

Summa Cum Laude (with highest praise) distinction for a GPA of 3.9-4.0 was earned by 165 students.

Typically, about 1,300 students walk in the ceremony with many others opting to participate only in their respective college convocations or department/program celebrations.

At the main university ceremony Saturday morning the President's Medalist and the University Graduate Medalist will be announced. These students are selected from among the 18 Dean's Medalists representing the eight colleges/schools and the Student Affairs Division.

The announcement will be posted on the university's Commencement website along with a photo gallery of the weekend's activities. The two top students will also be featured on the marquee boards at the Save Mart Center and Bulldog Stadium (Cedar and Shaw).

Also Saturday morning, Castro will confer by authority of the CSU Board of Trustees the honorary degree Doctor of Laws on a Fresno State alumnus, the Hon. Marvin Baster. An associate justice of the Supreme Court of California, Baster is being recognized for his distinguished 49-year legal career.

Dr. Anil Shrestha, professor of Plant Science in the Jordan College of Agriculture Sciences and Technology, will receive the Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching from Dr. Lynnette Zelezny, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Maelyn De Feld will sing the National Anthem and Lauren Aiken will sing the Alma Mater. Both are graduating music majors.

H. Dan Smith will lead the procession as grand marshal as one of the university's longest tenured faculty members. Smith, who joined Fresno State's faculty in 1978, is a professor in the department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation.

Adam Stirrup, the president of the Fresno State Alumni Association, will welcome the Class of 2015 graduates as official alumni after the degree conferral.

The commencement ceremony is organized by the University Commencement Planning Committee, coordinated by the Division of Student Affairs under the guidance of staff in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development.

For more information, call Melissa Ginotti or Josh Edrington at 559.278.2741 or see updates online.

NOTES:

Parking will be free in the Save Mart Center lots for all commencement events on campus. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. For the University Commencement, students begin lining up at 8 a.m. at the loading dock on the east side of the arena. The procession starts at 9:30 a.m.

Woodward Park (7775 N. Friant Rd.) in north Fresno charges $5 per vehicle ($3 if senior citizen is driver or passenger. Free if display valid Disabled person Placard/Decal and Gold Star plates and for active military with ID. See http://bit.ly/FresnoParkFees).

Guests with mobility concerns may be dropped off at the circle drive off Shaw Avenue adjacent to the Student Recreation Center (just west of the Save Mart Center).

Handicap parking lots: Lot 5 (directly behind Save Mart Center), and in Lots P1, P5 and P6.

Traffic: Freeway 168 westbound will be closed to vehicular traffic from Shepherd Avenue to McKinley Avenue from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16 for the California Classic Century Ride. Please plan to use an alternate route and expect traffic delays. Plan to arrive early to avoid heavy traffic.

See traffic advisory.

Related Links:

- Hashtags: #FresnoStateGrad15 and #CSU3MIL
- Fresno State Commencement website
- Fresno State You Tube
- Commencement photo gallery
- Honorary Doctorate
- Diversity celebrations
- Provost Award
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CASTRO HONORED JUSTICE ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ WITH MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

CASTRO HONORED JUSTICE ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ WITH MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro presented the President's Medal of Distinction to retired Fresno County Superior Court Judge and Fresno State alumnus Armando Rodriguez in recognition of his distinguished legal career and service to the community.

The President's Medal of Distinction is the highest non-degree award presented by Fresno State. It is given to citizens of the region, state or nation whose contributions in the area of professional achievements or public service are of national or international significance.

Rodriguez, the ninth of 12 children, served four years as an Air Force code specialist in the Korean War. He attended Fresno State on the GI Bill, graduating in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in

political science. He earned his law degree from the Lincoln School of Law in San Francisco, and established the first California Rural Legal Assistance program in California.

In 1972 Rodriguez became the first Hispanic elected to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors of Fresno County. He was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to be a Fresno County Superior Court judge in 1975.

Rodriguez retired in 1996, but continued to serve on assignment covering court vacancies throughout the state. Known as an icon in the local Latino community, Rodriguez has a long history of service working in leadership roles with Arte Americas, Fresno State Alumni Association, Radio Bilingüe, Fresno County Community Hospital, Fresno-Torreon Sister-City Committee and other community organizations. In 2011 he was presented the Outstanding Alumnus Award by the Fresno State Alumni Association on behalf of the College of Social Sciences.

He and his wife, Betty, have each been recipients of La Medalla Ohtli, the highest recognition that the Mexican government bestows on non-Mexican citizens. The Rodriguezes have received numerous honors for their work with the Mexican Consulate, with Fresno's Sister City Torreon and with youth from Mexico.

By Kathleen Schock | May 11th, 2015 | Categories: ALUMNI, PRESS RELEASES | Tags: alumni | 0 Comments

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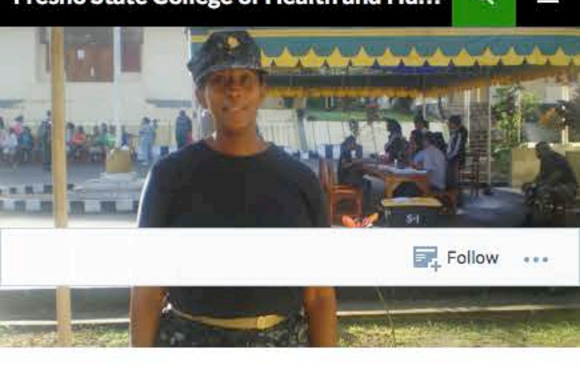


UNCATEGORIZED

JANICE SANDERS: FORMER NAVY NURSE EARNS DOCTORATE, NOW EDUCATING NEXT GENERATION

MAY 8, 2015 · FRESNOSTATECHHS · 1 COMMENT

Dr. Janice Sanders.

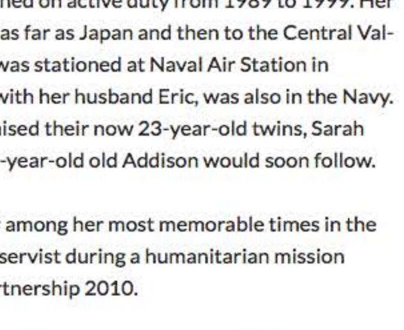
In honor of National Nurses Week, we'd like to profile the wonderful faculty and alumni within our School of Nursing, starting with Dr. Janice Sanders, assistant professor in the School of Nursing and alumna ('04 and '14). An excerpt of her story is featured in the spring 2015 edition of Fresno State Magazine.

As a former U.S. Navy Nurse, Dr. Janice Sanders has been all over the world, but nothing quite compares to where she grew up – Sumter, South Carolina. After all, this is where her memories with her 10 siblings are built and this is where she discovered her love of nursing.

When Sanders was 10, she recalls a moment that forever triggered her desire to one day become a nurse and be in the service of helping others. Her beloved grandmother, who was diabetic, had suffered a stroke and needed home care assistance. Every day she would watch as her older sister, Jacqueline, who would eventually become a nurse as well, inject insulin shots for her grandmother as their mother stood nearby, ready to provide the remaining around-the-clock care.

"Just watching my mother care for my grandmother and many others is a trait she passed on to her kids," says Sanders. *"She always encouraged me to take care of others who needed help. She was my inspiration."*

This led to her attending Clemson University in South Carolina, where she obtained her bachelor of science in nursing in 1988.

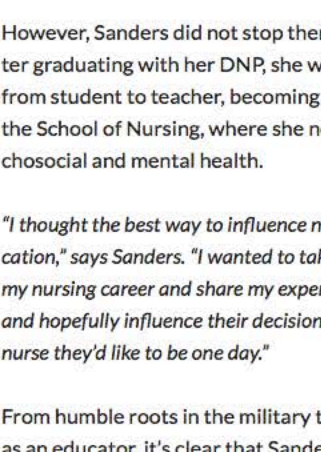


Someone else who would play an influential role in her career was her father, a Korean War Veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He passed away from a car accident when she was just five-years-old, but his legacy of service would live on in six of his children, each of whom would enlist in various branches of the military, including Sanders.

After receiving her bachelor's, Sanders felt a strong desire to do something different with her nursing career. She took a leap of faith and enlisted in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, where she remained on active duty from 1989 to 1999. Her service took her as far as Japan and then to the Central Valley – where she was stationed at Naval Air Station in Lemoore, along with her husband Eric, was also in the Navy. Together, they raised their now 23-year-old twins, Sarah and Kirby. Seven-year-old old Addison would soon follow.

Sanders says her among her most memorable times in the Navy was as a reservist during a humanitarian mission called Pacific Partnership 2010.

"It was awesome to collaborate with other health professionals from different military services as well as professionals from several nations and volunteer groups. Despite, diverse cultures, language barriers, and different organizational structures, participants came together for the common goal of serving others."



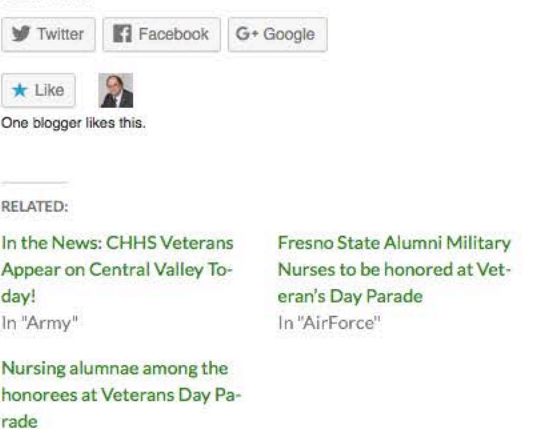
During her 12 years in the reserves, Sanders enrolled at Fresno State and received her Master of Science in Nursing in 2004. Ten years later, she returned to her alma mater and received her Doctoral in Nursing Practice degree in the spring of 2014. She was part of the very first class to graduate from the DNP program.

Sanders is also the first in her line of siblings to receive a doctoral degree – an accomplishment she is most proud of.

However, Sanders did not stop there. Just a few months after graduating with her DNP, she would make the transition from student to teacher, becoming an assistant professor in the School of Nursing, where she now specializes in psychosocial and mental health.

"I thought the best way to influence nursing was to go into education," says Sanders. *"I wanted to take a different direction in my nursing career and share my experiences with my students and hopefully influence their decision making into what kind of nurse they'd like to be one day."*

From humble roots in the military to pursuing her passion as an educator, it's clear that Sanders was destined for a life of service.



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ONE THOUGHT ON "JANICE SANDERS: FORMER NAVY NURSE EARNS DOCTORATE, NOW EDUCATING NEXT GENERATION"

Kathleen Rindahl
MAY 8, 2015 AT 10:34 PM

You ROCK Janice!!!

Kathi Rindahl, RN, DNP, FNP-C Assistant Professor, Baccalaureate Coordinator School of Nursing, Fresno State University Office Phone 559-278-3491 Cell Phone 559-230-9979

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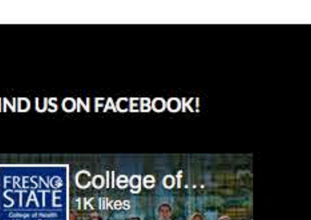

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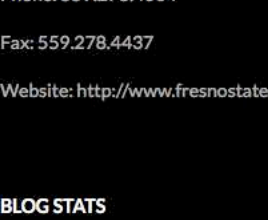

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Do you have news you would like to share with the community? Let us know! We'd like to hear about everything that makes this community LIVE WELL.

Contact our Communications Specialist Melissa Tav at 559.278.8379 or mtav@csufresno.edu to get started!

Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Charles P. Pierce
Blog
Colleague Deegans, Californiana Other Drought
Jul 11, 2014 at 7:00 AM ET
CDC Foundation Volunteers are a place to assume that most of the people who are going to be at the Ebola Treatment Unit in Kenema, Sierra Leone, will be fairly functionally undamaged and fairly well-adjusted. Nonetheless, the CDC Foundation has created a program to provide "psychological support" to the people who are working in that unit, including "mental health counselors, chaplains, social workers, and other professionals who are trained to provide emotional and spiritual support." The program is being run by the CDC, of course, and it is being run by people who are, presumably, competent to the job at hand. Nonetheless, Ebola, being what it is, and the people who are being exposed to it being what they are, I wonder how well the program will work in practice. The Atlantic is devoted to ideas, after all, and the ideas that are being tested in Kenema are not the ideas that are being tested in Ferguson, Missouri, or in Gaza, or in Washington, D.C.
This statement, one of many, likely to be made in the next few weeks, is not to be taken as a criticism of the people who are being sent to the Ebola Treatment Unit in Kenema. It is, rather, a statement of the fact that, in the Ebola Treatment Unit in Kenema, the ideas that are being tested are the ideas that are being tested in the United States of America, and, in the end, the ideas that are being tested in the United States of America are the ideas that are being tested everywhere else in the world. The Ebola Treatment Unit in Kenema is a place where the ideas that are being tested are the ideas that are being tested everywhere else in the world. This statement is not a criticism of the people who are being sent to the Ebola Treatment Unit in Kenema. It is a statement of the fact that, in the Ebola Treatment Unit in Kenema,

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Stories celebrating Bulldog alumni.
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From intern to general manager, alum is living the dream

By HANNAH POORE, Student Writer

Photo by Cary Edmondson

A Central Valley native and lifelong baseball fan, Derek Franks (2007) started with the Grizzlies in 2004 as a college intern in the box office, where he learned about ticketing. From there, he worked in the sales department, ran the ticket sales staff, became executive vice president of sales, and then in March 2015, started as general manager, which is the Grizzlies' top day-to-day management role.

Growing up in Kingsburg, Franks played baseball his entire childhood. After high school, he attended Reedley College where he continued playing baseball until he got in a car accident, leaving him with two broken wrists.

When he couldn't play because of his injury, he remembers thinking, "What am I going to do to be around baseball? I thought, I can maybe in work in sports, that seems like a logical thing."

So in 2003, Franks went to a job fair at the Grizzlies' stadium to apply for a seasonal game day staff position. He had another job at the time, but wanted the experience of working with a sports team and thought it would look good on his resume. Franks said he assumed it would be easy to get a job there and simply dropped off his resume and left. Unfortunately, he struck out.

> *"I came back the next year and I was like, 'Every person in that job fair is going to know this guy,'" Franks said. "So I was like a man on a mission."*

That year, when Franks handed in his resume and introduced himself to people, he got called back for an interview. He was offered an internship in the box office, and jumped at the opportunity.

After his internship ended, he began working in the ticket sales department. Around the same time, he was also applying to universities. He chose Fresno State because of the "very cool opportunity" he had with the Grizzlies.

"Most of the guys that have my [current] job end up having to trade teams a lot to get where you want to be," Franks said. "But for me, this is my twelfth year here, in my hometown—I grew up right down the street—so I'm really lucky … I got to stay like 20 miles from the house I grew up in, which is crazy. So that's kind of my cheesy story."

"I get to run our business," Franks said of being a minor league baseball general manager. "Which is getting to build an entertainment business around the game of baseball. My role is to make sure our six departments all function and that the day-to-day operation is healthy and we put on 72 fun events every year."

Franks said that this year has been particularly exciting because the Grizzlies changed major league affiliates from the San Francisco Giants to the Houston Astros. In the past, a lot of the Grizzlies' success was tied to the Giants' performance, Franks said.

> *Switching affiliates has given the Grizzlies the opportunity to become "a really Fresno-proud team," Franks said. "We feel like we're getting back to the roots of being a Central Valley team and we're really pumped about that."*

The Grizzlies have already hosted a Jerry Tarkanian tribute night, a tri-tip throwdown and Ag Night this year, and will host more events like the Taco Truck Throwdown 5 on August 6.

"I think you will see events that are very Fresno-centric, Central Valley-centric," Franks said.

For tickets and event information, visit www.fresnogrizzlies.com or follow them at @FresnoGrizzlies.

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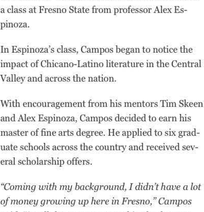
Furious Dusk author wins national poetry award

By HANNAH POORE, Student Writer

Photo by Cary Edmondson

David Campos (2010) has been awarded the 2014 Andres Montoya Poetry Prize, a nationally-recognized biennial award presented by the Institute for Latino Studies at University of Notre Dame honoring one promising Latino-American poet by publishing their first collection.

Campos won the award for his collection *Furious Dusk*, which explores a son's effort to understand and fulfill his father's and his Mexican culture's expectations of masculinity versus his American culture's expectations of masculinity.



Furious Dusk: The trailer

The award is especially significant for Campos because Montoya, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Fresno State alumnus (1992), was one of the first poets whose work he admired. Campos had never thought of pursuing poetry or creative writing as a profession until he read Montoya's poetry.

After reading Montoya's work, Campos began researching Fresno's rich poetic history, and discovered Philip Levine, Larry Levis and Gary Soto. He participated in open mikes and poetry slams, and had another "turnaround moment" when he took a class at Fresno State from professor Alex Espinoza.

In Espinoza's class, Campos began to notice the impact of Chicano-Latino literature in the Central Valley and across the nation.

With encouragement from his mentors Tim Skeen and Alex Espinoza, Campos decided to earn his master of fine arts degree. He applied to six graduate schools across the country and received several scholarship offers.

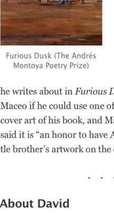
"Coming with my background, I didn't have a lot of money growing up here in Fresno," Campos said. "So all that money was a big shock to me, like 'Hey, free education!' So I took the best offer, I went down to UC Riverside where I met even further Fresno connections."

"That legacy of Fresno and Fresno State and Philip Levine and Andres Montoya was just being carried on and continued at UC Riverside," Campos said.

Campos was first a finalist for the Andres Montoya Poetry Prize during the first year of his M.F.A. program. When he didn't win, Campos destroyed his manuscript and took about seven months to rebuild it. Two years later, he was awarded the prize.

"I was really excited about winning that prize," Campos said.
"Especially considering that the prize I won was named after the poet whose first poetry collection I had ever read. So it was just kind of like full-circle.
So, that was really cool, that was really nice."

"I am the first Californian to win it, first person from the West Coast to win it, and I'm also the first person in Fresno to win it," Campos said. "So … In a sense, I'm bringing the award back home."

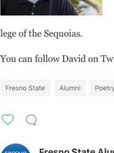


Furious Dusk (The Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize)

Maceo Montoya, Andres Montoya's younger brother, emailed Campos to congratulate him on winning the prize named after his late brother. Maceo is an artist and professor at UC Davis, and Campos was really taken by his paintings, many of which he says tie to themes he writes about in *Furious Dusk*. Campos asked Maceo if he could use one of his paintings for the cover art of his book, and Maceo agreed. Campos said it is "an honor to have Andres Montoya's little brother's artwork on the cover."

. . .

About David



Campos lives in Fresno with his wife and "absolutely loves" his job teaching English at Fresno City College and College of the Sequoias.

You can follow David on Twitter @camposwriter.

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Cookbook author brings Twilight fans to the kitchen

By HANNAH POORE, Student Writer

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Gina Meyers (1994) wrote *Love at First Bite: The Unofficial Twilight Cookbook*, which has been sold worldwide and brings together *Twilight* lovers of all ages and cooking skills.

While the cookbook includes dozens of *Twilight*-themed recipes, Meyers said it "is not really about cooking, it's about bringing people together."

She added that the cookbook aims to "reignite a spark of imagination in the kitchen, and to bring people of all ages back in the kitchen cooking and exploring life and opportunities."

Readers can enjoy Meyers' use of the *Twilight* theme throughout the entire cookbook. Named after the town where *Twilight* is set—Forks, Washington—recipes are categorized by number of forks: one-fork recipes are for beginners, two-fork recipes are moderate and three-fork recipes are the most advanced.

Every recipe in the cookbook is introduced with a quote from the *Twilight* series. Because the book mentions that Edward is a "vegetarian vampire," Meyers made sure to include a section for vegetarians.

Today, Meyers has traveled around the U.S. and the world for book signings, cooking demonstrations, trivia contests and radio and TV show specials.

Enjoying wide popularity, in July 2010, the cookbook was featured on an episode of *Alan Carr: Chatty Man*, where the *Twilight* stars sampled the book's punch recipe. Meyers said that Kellen Lutz, who plays Emmett Cullen in the *Twilight* movies, "went nuts over the secret ingredient: gummy worms." See the Twilight Tribute Punch recipe at the end of this story and try the drink out!

Meyers, who graduated from Fresno State with a Bachelor of Science degree in business marketing and also attended Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Paris, credits her success to goal setting and following her dreams.

> *"To pursue your passion is to follow your heart and to do the things that make sense," Meyers said.*

As for advice to others who are trying to find their passion in life, Meyers suggests that people remember all of the things they loved doing as a child. For her, it was hosting game show parties based off of *The Price is Right*. Inviting her neighborhood friends, Meyers would bake cupcakes and treats from scratch and set up a game show area in her backyard where she would quiz her friends and pass out prizes.

Meyers encourages cooks to believe in themselves and experiment, to go out on a limb and try new things. For those who need inspiration, she recommends reading different cookbook authors and watching different cooking shows.

"There's nothing wrong with imitating others. Know that cooking is a culinary art form—so you will always develop your own natural abilities," Meyers said.

Twilight Tribute Punch:
2 (10-ounce) packages of Frozen Strawberries, defrosted
1 (6-ounce) can lemonade concentrate, unthawed, defrosted-
1 quart of ginger ale
2 cups of raisins
6–8 gummy worms
Directions: Mix strawberries and lemonade concentrate in a blender. Next add ginger ale and transfer the beverage to a punch bowl, stir in the raisins and drape the gummy worms at the rim of the punch bowl. While pouring ginger ale, pay attention to fizzing. May use fresh strawberries or raspberries instead of frozen.

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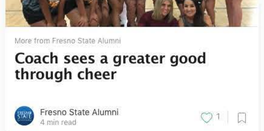

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Young alumna blooms as entrepreneur

By HANNAH POORE, Student Writer

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Prisca Shiralian (2014) is the new owner of D&L Floral, previously named D&L Roses.

At age 25, she bought the business before she had even graduated from her master of business administration program at Fresno State. Shiralian, a Fresno native, said she always knew she wanted to be an entrepreneur, but never had her sights set on flowers before she decided to buy D&L.

"It's been a really interesting business," Shiralian said. "I'm still learning a lot day by day because I don't really know anything about the floral industry, but I have a lot of business background, so I'm bringing that side to the business, which has been pretty good so far.

"My master's program was extremely beneficial to me," Shiralian said. "I think that being the youngest, and being in classes with classmates who were already established, brought out a different side of business for me. So I was already

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D&L has been a fixture in Fresno for 20 years. Many D&L employees have been there for all 20 years. Shiralian said her team of employees has been great because they "really love what they do."

D&L has a main shop at Minarets and Alluvial avenues, and three huts around Fresno and Clovis. Prisca and her team just opened the newest hut in Fig Garden Village. They won the Fresno Bee's 2015 People's Choice Award for Favorite Floral Shop.

D&L Floral is very popular for its $5 rose bouquets, and also for carrying flower varieties that can't be found anywhere else in the Central Valley, like rainbow roses from South America, Shiralian's personal favorite.

> *"I love our business ... we're doing a good thing," Shiralian said. "Someone's calling to send someone flowers to make them happy, and to be a part of that is just very sweet."*

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North Bay Alumni & Friends Dinner - June 15

Santa Rosa Junior College, Shone Farm

4 p.m. Farm Tour | 5 p.m. Social | 6:30 p.m. Dinner

For ticket information contact Ag One at 559-278-4266.

To register for the farm tour: please email shemsath@csufresno.edu with names of guests. For more information, contact Ag One at 559-278-4266.

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